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MAIL STOP 28-2-C
ONE AMGEN CENTER DRIVE
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320-1799

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
William J. Boyle	:	
Application No. 09/211,297	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: December 14, 1998	:	
Attorney Docket No. A-451-F	:	

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed October 10, 2006, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The two-month period for filing an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37 (accompanied by the fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2)), runs from the date of this decision.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action, mailed February 3, 2006, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2)), an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and submission (37 CFR 1.114), or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See MPEP 711.03(c)(II)(A)(2). No extensions of time pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on May 4, 2006.


An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$1020 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on October 10, 2006 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of a Notice of Appeal, (2) the petition fee of \$1500; and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the language required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3), the statement is being construed as the required statement. Petitioner must notify the Office if this is **not** a correct reading of the statement appearing in the petition.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to April Wise at (571) 272-1642.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1644 for the Examiner to await the arrival of the Appeal Brief.


Irvin Dingle
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions